Stage I—Coal India headquarters will be connected with headquarters of subsidiary companies and the Department of Coal.

Stage II—Important areas and projects will be connected with respective subsidiary company headquarters.

Stage III—Other areas, washeries, workshops and rescue stations will be connected with subsidiary company headquarters.

Stage IV—Communication links will be established between area offices and mine units.

Revival of M/s. Nirlon Synthetics and Fibres Limited

692. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the revival of M/s. Nirlon Synthetics and Fibres Limited ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) is studying the measures for rehabilitation of M/s. Nirlon Synthetics & Fibres Limited.

Compensation to Bhopal gas tragedy victims

693. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Central Government towards payment of interim and final compensation to the Bhopal Gas tragedy victims ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): The compensation amount for the Bhopal Gas victims has not yet been finally decided as the Government has filed an Affidavit in the Supreme Court supporting the petitioners for review of its earlier Settlement Order dated 14th/15th February, 1989. The matter is sub-judice.

However, the Supreme Court earlier directed payment of Interim Relief at specified rates to the specific categories of victims and these payments are accordingly being made since May, 1989 by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. The expenditure incurred on this account is being reimbursed by the Central Government. In addition, the Government has also decided to pay an interim relief of Rs. 200/- per month per person for a period of 3 years to all the residents in the 36 severely affected municipal wards in Bhopal, at the time of disaster. The payment will be made to the minors and adults at the same rate through the scheduled Nationalised/Cooperative Banks. The amount of interim relief will be adjusted against the individual compensation to be finally determined. The money is being released to the Banks shortly and payment will start through the said Banks at the earliest.

Import of natural gas

694. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import natural gas; and

(b) if so, what are the particulars of such intended import ?